UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.154/293
16 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 13 SEPTEMBER 1996 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE

Enclosed please find the text of a note verbale dated 8 August 1996 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, responding to the latter's note verbale dated 8 June 1996 (A/AC.154/290, annex), concerning the results of consultations with the City of New York regarding the placement of a street sign.

I kindly request that the text of the present letter and its annex be circulated as an official document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Victor MARRERO

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ANNEX

Note verbale dated 8 August 1996 from the United States Mission to the United Nations addressed to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations and wishes to respond to the latter's note No. NV.473, dated 8 June 1996, concerning the placement by authorities of the City of New York of a street name sign entitled "Brothers to the Rescue Corner" at the north-east corner of East 38th Street and Lexington Avenue, which is within the security perimeter of the Cuban Mission.

At the meetings of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country held on 14 May and 18 June 1996, the representative of the United States informed the members of the Committee that the placement of street signs was entirely a municipal function in which host country officials have no involvement, but that the host country none the less would undertake detailed consultations with the authorities of the City of New York in that regard. Following those consultations the sign in question was removed from its original location and relocated to another corner of the intersection that is outside the security zone of the Cuban Mission.

It is the view of the United States Mission that the relocation of the original street name sign reasonably responds to legitimate safety and security concerns expressed by the Mission of Cuba, and that other questions raised must yield to equally legitimate constitutional free speech issues presented by the placement of the street sign(s) at suitable locations.

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